



Michigan *Office of the Auditor General* **REPORT SUMMARY**

Performance Audit

Jackson Community College

Report Number:
32-190-04

Released:
June 2005

Jackson Community College is a public, two-year institution of higher education offering academic, vocational-technical, and continuing education courses. The College was established in 1928 as an extension of the Jackson Public School system and became a separate institution by vote of the electorate in 1962. The College operates under the authority of Sections 389.1 - 389.195 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, commonly known as the Community College Act of 1966.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of the College's admissions and monitoring practices to help students successfully complete their classes and programs.

Audit Conclusion:

The College's admissions and monitoring practices were somewhat effective in helping students successfully complete their classes and programs.

Reportable Conditions:

The College needs to enforce its course placement testing and college-level course enrollment requirements (Finding 1).

The College needs to enhance its monitoring of student academic progress to ensure that students receive academic support services as needed (Finding 2).

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of the College's efforts to evaluate the quality of its educational programs.

Audit Conclusion:

The College was generally effective in its efforts to evaluate the quality of its educational programs. Our report does not include any reportable conditions related to this audit objective.

Noteworthy Accomplishments:

The College had developed a comprehensive self-assessment process to evaluate the quality of its educational programs. The College's assessment process included a review of College objectives, course objectives, assessment criteria, and benchmarks that describe the desired level of outputs and outcomes based on management expectations; a comparison of the actual outcomes to

desired benchmarks; a reporting of the comparison results to College management; and, if applicable, recommendations to improve the course quality or change the desired performance criteria, benchmarks, and/or teaching strategies. Although some self-assessment plan benchmarks and course and teaching strategy updates are needed, the assessment process represents a significant effort to ensure the quality of educational programs.

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Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness and efficiency of the College's use of educational program resources.

Audit Conclusion:

The College was generally effective and efficient in its use of educational program resources.

Reportable Conditions:

The College needs to improve its policy for addressing minimum class enrollment standards (Finding 3).

The College generally did not monitor repetitive course enrollments and identify and counsel students who were not making satisfactory academic progress. Also, the College had not developed a written policy that addressed repetitive course enrollments and their impact on student academic progress and the College's efficient use of resources. (Finding 4)

Noteworthy Accomplishments:

The College opened a new, two-story, 28,000-square-foot instructional center (JCC@Vo-Tec) in Adrian, Michigan, in fall 2003. The facility was the result of the College's partnership with the Lenawee Intermediate School District and the State of Michigan. In fall 2003, the College served 1,017 students, and since its opening, student enrollment has increased in excess of 20% each semester.

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Agency Response:

Our audit report contains 4 findings and 5 corresponding recommendations. The College's preliminary response indicated that it agrees with all of our recommendations.

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A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



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